

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7168

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF CORSICAN MILITANT, EDMOND SIMENOI

REF: PARIS 23207

1. DR. EDMOND SIMENOI, FORMER HEAD OF THE ACTION FOR THE REBIRTH OF CORSICA (ARC), HAS ADDRESSED A LETTER FROM HIS PRISON CELL IN BASTIA, CORSICA, TO THE ISLAND PRESS AGENCY REFERRING TO HIS FORTHCOMING TRIAL FOR HIS ROLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ALERIA LAST SUMMER. IN FACT THE TRIAL IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY AND SEVERE JUDGMENTS ARE EXPECTED FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE ALERIA AFFAIR. SIMENOI ACCUSES THE COURT OF STATE SECURITY, BEFORE WHICH THE

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TRIAL WILL BE HELD, TO BE THE "DEFINITIVE ANTI-

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION." FINALLY, HE FEELS THAT THE TRIAL WILL BE A CONTEST BETWEEN THE POLITICAL REPRESSION OF GOF ON THE ONE HAND AND THE CAPACITY FOR MOBILIZATION BY CORSICANS ON THE OTHER HAND.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SIMENOI CALLS FOR ONLY PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS ON BEHALF OF CORSICAN INDEPENDENCE, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT DURING THE TRIAL THERE WILL BE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE PART OF THE VARIOUS CORSICAN POLITICAL FACTIONS NOW EXTANT. IN RECENT WEEKS A NUMBER OF BOMBINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, INCLUDING THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE HALLOWED NAPOLEON HOTEL IN ILE ROUSSE. CORSICA WILL LIKELY REENTER THE FOREFRONT OF REGIONALIST DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRANCE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

RUSH

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